

Right Livelihood

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So the question becomes, How does one practice? As early Zen teacher Yung-chia said: "The practice of the Dharma in this greedy world — this is the power of wise vision." Right Livelihood is in the middle of the Eightfold Path — the path that begins with Right Views: "We are here only briefly, and we are parts of each other."

Hui-neng, who was a key figure in the establishment of Zen in China and who was Yung-chia's teacher said, "Your first vow, to save the many beings, means, I vow to save them in my own mind." Easy to parrot, difficult to personalize — but if they are saved there, really saved, and we move our bottoms from beneath the Bodhi tree and exert ourselves with our own well-developed skills, then there is hope.

Hope, because willy-nilly we are in intimate communication. We are not a scattering of isolated individuals with the same ideas, but an organism, with each cell perfectly containing all other cells. Color one green, and all are green. Your idea is a virus in my blood, mine in yours.

These are not just Buddhist notions, but perennial truths clarified by nearly simultaneous events around the world, bringing the promise of peace, social justice and genuine concern for the living Earth, where violence, repression and exploitation ruled before.

Robert Aitken, Roshi, is the founding teacher of the Diamond Sangha in Honolulu, where he lives with his wife, Anne. He has long been active in engaged Buddhism, and is the author of several books, including The Mind of Clover: Essays in Zen Buddhist Ethics.

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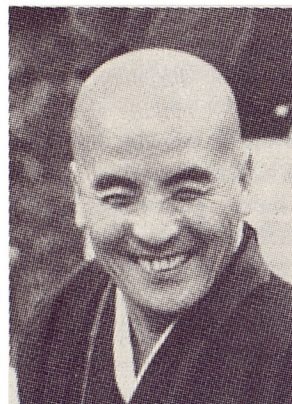
Three Month Winter Retreat at Furnace Mountain January 2 - March 29, 1990

ROBERT GENTHNER, Ji Do Poep Sa Nim will be in residence for this intensive retreat at the beautiful 110-acre Furnace Mountain Retreat Center, located at one of the highest elevations in Kentucky. Conducted in silence, the daily schedule will include ten hours of chanting, sitting, and walking meditation; work practice; and formal meals eaten in traditional temple style.

Lexington Zen Center
345 Jesselin Drive, Lexington, KY 40503
(606) 277-2438

In Memoriam

Dainin Katagiri, Roshi, 1928-1990



American Zen lost an important figure when Katagiri Roshi passed away in Minneapolis on March 1, 1990. He was 62.

Dainin Katagiri was born in Osaka, Japan. When he was nineteen he entered Eihei-ji Monastery, one of the premier Soto Zen temples in Japan. He trained there for three years, and continued to work for the Soto Zen order after he left.

In 1963 he was asked to assist at the Soto Zen mission in Los Angeles. Two years later he moved to San Francisco, where he would become assistant to Shunryu Suzuki, Roshi.

In 1972, Katagiri Roshi was invited to Minneapolis, where he established the Minnesota Zen Meditation Center. In 1977, he founded Hokyo-ji, a mountain training center on 1600 acres near the Mississippi River in southeastern Minnesota. A network of groups associated with MZMC sprung up in places such as Omaha, Milwaukee and Manhattan, Kansas.

Katagiri Roshi is survived by his wife, Mrs. Tomoe Katagiri, and two sons. He gave transmission to twelve students (eleven American and one Japanese) and died after an extended bout with cancer. His reflections on the illness were printed regularly in the center's newsletter and were an inspiration to many. Just before he died, he wrote the following bequeathed verse:

The moment you see death, it's scary. But death is what? Death is death. But — death passes through death to freedom — means all you have to do is to be with death. At that time, death is not death. Death becomes life. So life, death are working together. Living life, living death and entering life, entering death constantly. This is . . . human life. That is called the Middle Way. — Flowers in the sky —

Memorial cards and contributions may be sent to Minnesota Zen Meditation Center, 3343 East Calhoun Parkway, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55408. □